



The AnthrObserver

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

2015-2016

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News from the Chair

This past year has seen important changes for the Department of Anthropology. We have grown in both faculty and graduate students. We are extremely happy to welcome Cynthia Chou as the Stanley Chair of Asian Studies, a specialist on Southeast Asia who comes to us from Singapore and Copenhagen. Appointed for the spring 2016 semester, she has just received notice from the Board of Regents that her tenure has been approved as a full Professor. Laurie Graham was also promoted to Full Professor. John Doershuk was promoted to Adjunct Associate Professor. Emily Wentzell was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Congratulations to all of them. Thanks to the hard work of Russ Ciochon as director of the Museum Studies Program, and coordinator of distance education, we have also welcomed the addition of our first lecturer in the Department of Anthropology, Heidi Lung. Heidi has joined us to increase the regularity of course offerings for the Museum Studies Program, and particularly to establish a complete distance education program for the Museum Studies Certificate. Heidi has already developed new on-campus and distance education courses.

From a total of 157 Anthropology majors and 33 minors, a total of 48 undergraduate degrees in Anthropology were awarded this year, of which 39 are BA degrees and 9 are BS degrees. We are particularly proud of the accomplishments and recognition of our undergraduate students. In particular, Nathaniel Otjen was awarded the prestigious 2016 Josef E. and Ursil I. Callen Prize for an outstanding University of Iowa senior in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; he will use the prize to begin his graduate career at the University of Oregon where he has accepted an English Ph.D. offer to study environmental literature. Six of our undergraduate majors were invited to join Phi Beta Kappa, a signal honor for their nascent careers: Seraphina Carey, Ian Dunshee, Tylor Hobson, Amy Meehleder, Leslie Nemo and Nathaniel Otjen.

Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates (ICRU) scholars Chloe Daniel, Karen Grigsby, Rylee Kerper, Jeremy Skeens, Luke Stroth, and Rebekah Truhan presented their



Dr. James G. Enloe

News from the Chair

***Congratulations to
Toby Avalos and
Meredith Wismer
for being awarded
Ballard-Seashore
Fellowships***

***Congratulations to
Addison Kimmel for
being awarded a
National Science
Foundation
Graduate Research
Fellowship***

research in posters at the 2015 Fall Undergraduate Research Festival. Kayleigh Applegate, Chloe Daniel, Melody Hines, Jessica Macaluso, Amy Meehleder, Kaitlin Schlotfelt, and Maja Sunleaf presented their research in posters at the 2016 Spring Undergraduate Research Fair.

Luke Stroth has been accepted and funded in the graduate program in Anthropology at the University of California-San Diego. Deidre Funk has been accepted and funded in the graduate program in Anthropology at Stony Brook University. Lily Doershuk received an honorable mention for a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship application. Myra Laird (BS 2010) defended her dissertation at New York University and will begin a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago this fall.

Our 33 graduate students have been very active and productive this year. It has been an exceptionally good year for internal and external grants. Addison Kimmel was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, a highly competitive national award. Toby Avalos and Meredith Wismer were awarded Ballard-Seashore Fellowships for dissertation writing for next year. Lizzy Handschy also received an honorable mention for a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship application. Several graduate students have achieved significant milestones in their academic careers. Ana-Monica Racila and James McGrath finished the requirements for their MA degrees at the end of the spring 2016 semester. Five graduate students were awarded their PhD's. Misha Quill

defended during the summer and graduated in December 2015; she has taken a teaching position at Cornell College. Miranda Karban defended her dissertation in April, will graduate in May, and has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in Biology at Illinois College. Jennifer Trivedi also successfully defended her doctoral dissertation this spring. Jill Davis successfully defended in May and will graduate in August of this year; she has a visiting appointment as an Assistant Professor in GWSS at Iowa. Shelby Putt has scheduled a dissertation defense for July; she has accepted a post-doctoral fellowship at the Stone Age Institute in Bloomington, Indiana. Jill Scott, who expects to defend her dissertation in fall 2016, has accepted a position as coordinator for the four laboratories in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Metropolitan State University in Denver. Former graduate students in our program have also achieved significant accomplishments. Jerry Wever received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of Anthropology at Spelman College. Scott Maddux has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Center for Anatomical Sciences at the University of North Texas.

The faculty was also productive this year, particularly in major publications and in successful research grant proposals. Russ Ciochon received grants from the National Geographic Society and an internal grant from the Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research. Emily Wentzell is part of an interdisciplinary team whose proposal for "Crossing the Social/Biological Divide" has been selected as a 2016-17

News from the Chair

Obermann Center for Advanced Studies Working Group. The program is supported by the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Center's C. Esco and Avalon L. Obermann Endowment Fund. Elana Buch received a Collegiate Teaching Award. Our faculty members, as well as undergraduate and graduate students, were very active in presenting in local, regional, national and international conferences and congresses. There were, of course, substantial numbers of publications in peer-reviewed scholarly journals and chapters in edited volumes. Our faculty has received considerable recognition at the national and international scale. Mike Chibnik continues

as editor-in-chief for *American Anthropologist*, the flagship journal of the largest anthropological association in the world. Ellen Lewin serves as President of the Association for Feminist Anthropology; she was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for this spring semester.

We are expecting a bumper crop of new graduate students next fall. Six have indicated that they have accepted our invitations, three students in sociocultural, one in biological and two in archaeological anthropology. I look forward to citing their names and accomplishments in my DEO missive next spring.

*Congratulations to
Russ Ciochon for
being awarded
grants from the
National
Geographic Society
and the Center for
Global and
Regional
Environmental
Research*

Congratulations to our Graduates!

PhD, Fall 2015

MICHELLE QUILL—dissertation titled “Making it Matter: International Non-Governmental Organizations and Humanitarian Intervention in Bangladesh”

PhD, Spring 2016

MIRANDA KARBAN—dissertation titled “The Ontogeny of Occipital Bone Convexity in a Longitudinal Sample of Extant Humans”

JENNIFER TRIVEDI—dissertation titled “Biloxi’s Recovery from Katrina: Long-Term Influences and Inequalities”

MA, Summer 2015

DOMINIQUE ALHAMBRA—master’s paper titled “Projectile Point Use and Discard at Fort Union Trading Post (31W117), North Dakota”

AMANDA BERNEMANN—master’s paper titled “Oneota Subsistence Practices at the Christenson Site (13PK407)”

MA, Spring 2016

JAMES MCGRATH—master’s paper titled “Symboling in the Stone Age: A case study of the MSA ochre assemblage from Pinnacle Point 5-6, Western Cape Province, South Africa”

ANA-MONICA RACILA—2nd year portfolio in Medical Anthropology with a focus on transgender healthcare in the United States

Focus on Fieldwork

In Praise of a Small Site:

2007-2012 Excavations at Bolores (Torre Vedras, Portugal)

Contributed by: Katina Lillios

On July 25, 2012, our team closed up excavations at Bolores, a rockshelter overlooking the Sizandro River in Portugal where a group of people buried their dead around 4500 years ago. We backfilled the site and, for the last time, packed up field supplies into our toolbox, which we affectionately named B.O.B., or Beast of Burden. Although very happy about the project, I was also wistful, feeling *saudade*, a Portuguese nostalgia. I would miss those morning hikes up to the site, along that well-worn path edged with prickly scrub. I would miss the

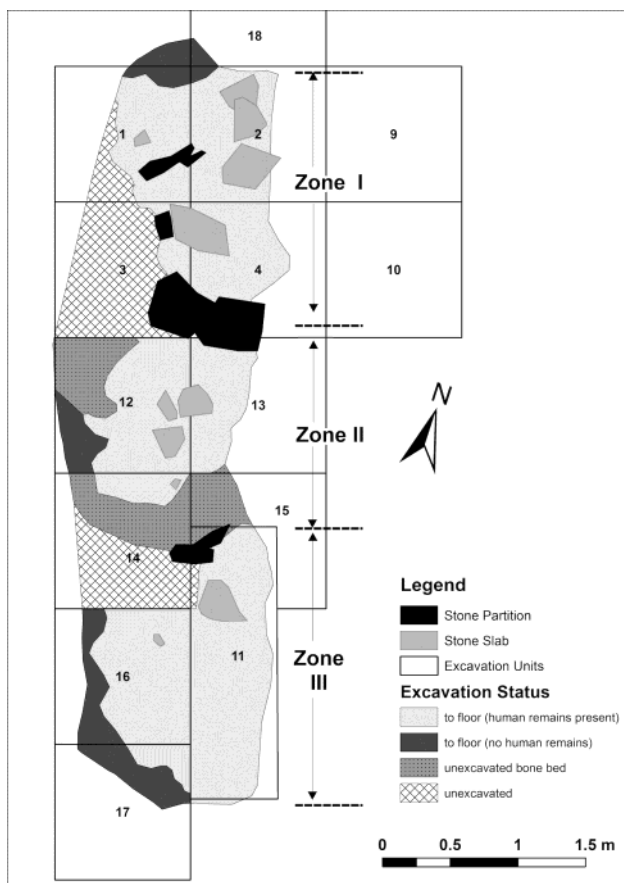
fragrant air, with its salty hint of the Atlantic. And I would miss the concentrated silence of the excavation, when we would sometimes work in contorted poses rivaling those of BKS Iyengar, to recover, as best as humanly possible, the thousands of fragmented remains of the Bolores dead. We marked the last day with beer, cookies, and the requisite end-of-project group photograph. Of course, the end of fieldwork was not the end of the study of the people who lived and buried their dead at Bolores. It was really the beginning. It was in the

painstaking laboratory work that followed and in writing the monograph, conference papers, and journal articles that much of what we know about Bolores became clearer.

As with many projects, we began work at Bolores with a different

End-of-the-project celebration at the Bolores Site, Portugal





The Bolores tomb

set of questions than we ended up asking. Initially, I had hoped to recover evidence to test my genealogical hypothesis for the engraved stone plaques. So, in 2006, my friends Michael Kunst and João Zilhão took me to Bolores, which had been known since 1986 and had Late Neolithic artifacts and well-preserved human remains. I initiated excavations in 2007 in collaboration with Joe Alan Artz, a geoarchaeologist and GIS specialist then working at the Office of the State Archaeologist, and Anna Waterman, then a graduate student in biological anthropology at UI. In addition to other UI students, I also invited Leonel Trindade, an archaeologist from Torres Vedras, who had worked at Bolores in 1986, to help. The first

season was successful, but no engraved plaques were found. I weighed two options: excavate another site (which did not guarantee plaques) or continue working at Bolores but change the research question. I decided to change the question.

At the time Bolores was used, around 5000 years ago, the agrarian populations that dotted the Iberian landscape - on mountains, hilltops, and open plains - were increasingly drawn together in interdependent networks of objects and people and over time, social differences came to be increasingly marked. Because radiocarbon dating at Bolores had returned nearly cosynchronous dates, I reasoned that the site would help us better understand the relationship between social and biological differentiation. We continued fieldwork in 2008 and 2010, and in 2012, were awarded a three-year NSF grant to excavate a fourth and final season. To help with the analyses of the human remains, Jennifer Mack (OSA), Ana-Monica Racila (UI), and Liv Nilsson-Stutz (Emory) joined the project.

What have we learned? Bolores was a small tomb (about 5m x 3m) built into an outcrop of soft Jurassic sandstone, which ancient peoples divided into three chambers with large sandstone boulders. They also set down flat limestone slabs on the ground within these chambers and grouped the dead around these slabs, sometimes placing ochre on them. At least 36 individuals were buried in all three chambers, including adults, adolescents, and subadults, females and males. Most were originally placed in the tomb as primary burials, likely wrapped in some kind of

cloth or container. We also found a bone bundle, representing the bones of at least two individuals, indicating that secondary burial was also practiced. Material culture was scarce and consisted of beads, unusual stone 'idols', flint blades, and ceramics. Some people were treated in distinctive ways, and were concentrated into one zone; there, the bone bundle, a child with a rabbit buried beneath its head, and all the stone idols were placed.

Overall, the diet and health of the Bolores people were quite similar; they showed little sign of disease. Of the 19 individuals Anna Waterman analyzed for strontium isotope ratios, all were local inhabitants. Biological distinctiveness was more apparent in their teeth; some individuals studied by Joel Irish (Liverpool John Moores University) had dental traits more common in North African populations, although they appear to have spent their lives in the area of Bolores.

Bolores seems to represent the practices of a distinctive social group. While these dead shared cuisine and mobility in life, they were spatially distinguished in death, and some underwent different ritual and material practices. However, the significance of Bolores can only be gauged when compared to other sites in the region. For this reason, I am now involved in a comparative study with Anna Waterman, Joel Irish, and Ana Maria Silva (Universidade de Coimbra), which is revealing intriguing connections between populations in the region and North Africa, and greater cultural and demographic diversity in the late Neolithic than previously recognized. It is too



A stone "idol" from Bolores

easy for us as archaeologists to homogenize the histories and identities of the people we study, particularly when they were buried in small collective tombs, like Bolores. However, when the evidence suggests that we need to contemplate the possibility that people of the past may have had different ancestries from other people living in their community, we gain new insights into their social world and factors that might have shaped larger historical processes.

UI Department Brown Bag Speaker Series

SCOTT OLSON "Sex is Prevention: AIDS, Public Sex, and Containing Communities of Gay Men."

NOVEMBER 6, 2015

T. MARKS "The Evolution of Neocortical Thickness: Analyzing Lineage-Specific Evolutionary Patterns."

DECEMBER 18, 2015

JAMES MCGRATH "Ochre in the Desert: Preliminary Sourcing and Colorimetric Results from Two Stone Age Sites in the Central Namib Desert."

FEBRUARY 12, 2016

MIRANDA KARBAN "Occipital Bone Growth & Development: The Curious Case of the Occipital Bun."

MARCH 4, 2016

SHELBY PUTT "A Re-evaluation of the Technological Origin for Language Hypothesis."

APRIL 8, 2016

KATINA LILLIOS "Unfair Trades and Unwilling Travellers: Alternative Mobilities of Things, People, and Animals in the Past."

APRIL 15, 2016

ELIZABETH HANDSCHY "Fat-Accepting Lesbian Communities: Myth or Reality?"

May 6, 2016



Focus on Faculty



Bringing it all Back Home: Anthropology Applied to Impending Pipeline

Contributed by: Scott Schnell

You may know me as a faculty member here in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Iowa, but I am also co-owner and manager of the family farm back in Ohio where I was born and raised. The farm has always been “home” for me, and I return there often, not only to look after things, but also to restore my sense of equilibrium. Indeed, my very identity is firmly embedded in its rolling contours.

Now a large, Texas-based energy infrastructure company named Kinder Morgan is threatening to build

a pipeline through my beloved farm. The pipeline is not intended to carry petroleum or natural gas but rather ethane, a by-product from the fracking of Utica shale deposits in eastern Ohio. The ethane would be pumped northwest around Lake Erie to Ontario, then converted into ethylene and used as industrial feedstock to make plastics. The project has been named “Utica to Ontario Pipeline Access,” or UTOPIA.

The pipeline would serve a single customer—the NOVA Chemical Corporation in Canada—and would generate hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for Kinder Morgan. The product it would carry, however, offers no commercial benefit to residents along the way, and in fact, as a highly flammable and hazardous substance, could expose them to significant risks—especially over the long term as the pipeline ages. Kinder Morgan claims that local communities would benefit through the creation of around 900 temporary construction jobs and five (!) full-time operational positions (spread across fourteen

The Schnell farm,
Ohio



counties). There is no guarantee, however, that local people would be hired—in fact the preliminary survey crew was brought in from Arkansas. This is the “utopia” that Kinder Morgan promises.

Needless to say, I am greatly disturbed by this prospect and am doing my best to resist it. But where does anthropology come in? One of the hallmarks of anthropology is its holistic and integrative approach. Among other things, this allows us to view a single issue from various socioeconomic and political perspectives, and to recognize the impact of larger forces at “ground level.” More specifically with the pipeline issue, it helps us to understand how power differentials are created and maintained through inequities in the

substances, and the landowner has no say in such decisions.

In return for the easement, landowners are offered compensation in the form of a single up-front payment. Though initial offers may appear to be substantial, they prove far less generous, even minimal, when spread out over periods of 20 or 30 years, especially considering that the potential for hazardous leaks increases with aging infrastructure. The pipeline company would continue to enrich itself using other people’s land, while the owners assume most of the risk and none of the profits.

The amount of the up-front payment is negotiable, but several factors work to promote a settlement that favors the pipeline company. The company

“Among other things, [anthropology] allows us to view a single issue from various socioeconomic and political perspectives, and to recognize the impact of larger forces at ‘ground level.’”

legal system, clever divide-and-rule strategies, and the manipulation of public perceptions.

In order to build a pipeline, a company like Kinder Morgan must first obtain easements from private owners whose land the proposed route will traverse. An easement basically gives the company free access to a broad strip of land, first to construct the pipeline, then later to re-enter periodically for inspections and repairs. This right of access is granted by a court of law in perpetuity—a landowner cannot have it revoked without the pipeline company’s agreement. There are also restrictions on how the owner may use the land in easement—no trees may be grown, for example, nor structures built upon it. The company, on the other hand, may later decide to sell the pipeline or use it to convey other

withholds a detailed map of its proposed route, so landowners have little way to identify one another and organize themselves. They will, however, be contacted individually by one or more large legal firms offering to represent them in negotiating a settlement, the standard fee for such services being 25% of the settlement amount. In other words, the lawyers representing the landowners have a big stake in the project’s completion. It is not surprising, then, that they, like the company representatives, are eager to convey the impression that the pipeline is inevitable; landowners should resign themselves to it and turn toward settling without delay. I was eventually able to find a local law firm willing to represent me in trying to prevent the pipeline from invading my farm, but the legal fees are costly and the odds of a positive outcome are tenuous at

best. For holdouts like me, Kinder Morgan will try to invoke the power of eminent domain through the local court and force me to grant them an easement. In Ohio, eminent domain is supposed to be exercised only on behalf of a “common carrier” that serves the public interest, as opposed to a private carrier that serves specific customers. Furthermore, this is meant to apply only to the transport of certain products, namely natural gas, petroleum, coal, water, or electricity. My lawyers made what I considered a very persuasive argument: that ethane was not on the list of favored products and that Kinder Morgan was not a common carrier serving the public interest.

Kinder Morgan countered by insisting that ethane counted as “petroleum” (i.e. a related by-product) and that, since it is used to make plastics, they were providing a useful public service. The judge ruled in favor of Kinder Morgan but offered no explanation to support his decision. My lawyers will now appeal to the district court, hoping at least for a more studied response. Of course, as the case progresses, the meter continues to run on my legal fees, and there are limits to how far an individual like me can afford to press the issue. That is partly why major corporations can exercise the power of eminent domain so

easily—small landowners lack the means to challenge them in court.

My biggest objection to the pipeline is simply this—it would desecrate a landscape that I know and love. I recognize, however, that such “emotional” appeals would go nowhere in a court of law, nor even in the court of public opinion. In the local newspaper, therefore, I have restricted my comments to the economic impact—that the pipeline would decrease property values, that it poses substantial threats to public safety and water quality, that the only way to equitably compensate landowners would be by offering them a share of the profits the company would make.

The whole experience underscores for me again two impediments to resolving our environmental problems here in the contemporary, post-industrial, commercialized West: that we have no way to talk or even think about the land except as real estate, and that there is little to encourage a sense of moral responsibility to the land in the long term. Of course, another hallmark of anthropology is its comparative approach, and the ethnographic record holds a range of useful alternative conceptions. We would be well-advised to consider and perhaps apply them.



Pipeline surveyors on the farm the morning after the court decision in favor of Kinder Morgan.

New to the Faculty: First Year Reflections of Heidi Lung

Reflecting on my first year I cannot help but think of those who came before me. The University lays claim to an extensive museum studies tradition. Established in 1858, the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History was one of the first of its kind and museum studies courses have been offered continuously since 1910. Throughout this long history students have benefited from the vast physical resources of the University museums and collections, and moreover, from the talented human assets including artists, scientists, faculty and staff who played central roles in preservation, research and engagement initiatives. For a museum professional with over twenty years experience working in museums, and who is admittedly a super-museum-geek, I can only say being a part of the museum studies certificate program at the University of Iowa is a dream come true.

My work over the past year has consisted of teaching core courses and developing new online offerings. I am excited to be charged with creating an online presence for the program and the opportunity to provide career professionals with access to professional development throughout the state. I feel strongly about delivering unique learning experiences for students and have integrated several digital projects and activities into the coursework, some inspired by University initiatives such as TILE and Ideal. Projects like the Iowa Narrative Project and digital museum service learning portfolios succeed in building student digital literacy skills and provide a conduit for collaborative learning through community engagement.

In addition to teaching, I have very much enjoyed mentoring students in museum service learning projects and internships. Providing professional learning

opportunities within a museum environment is truly an active way to involve students with collections and the community all the while building skills that directly apply to the field. I have found students to be hard working, curious and enthusiastic. Collaborating with University museum staff, the department staff and faculty, and the Iowa museum community is a joy and I am moved by the kindness and generosity all have shown me over the past year.

My professional goal is to prepare the next generation of museum professionals with the skills needed to manage and lead museums of the future. Museums are currently transforming themselves as they adapt to an increasingly competitive environment. The museum of the future will adopt digital processes in operations, management and communications; develop innovative approaches to funding; promote community accessibility and relevancy; and preserve and promote culture through connections with past and present. Over this first year I am in awe of the number and quality of educational resources and hands-on professional experiences presented to museum studies students at the University of Iowa. The combination of physical and human assets presents the richest learning environment imaginable. As I teach courses and guide students on their path to future careers, I am both inspired and proud of the enthusiasm, professionalism and innovation they bring to the field of museums. This is a very exciting time for museum studies at the University of Iowa. MUSEUM ON!

-Heidi Lung



New to the Faculty: Welcome Cynthia Chou!



An email letter from the University of Iowa in March 2015 brought about a life changing experience for my husband and me! For decades we had lived in the Netherlands and Denmark and were charmed and enriched by the cultural diversity of the continent. Yet, however well we integrated into the communities there, there were occasions when language hurdles

proved a challenge, particularly during life crisis moments. I had also been stationed in an area studies program department with fifty faculty members that had but a handful of fellow anthropologists with whom I could exchange ideas. The opportunity to join the four-field Department of Anthropology at the University of Iowa situated in a part of America in which early immigrants from central and northern Europe settled was thus simply perfect. A dream come true!

In November 2015, we came to Iowa City for three weeks with the explicit purpose of making living arrangements so that I could concentrate on my work as soon as we arrived in January 2016. Lo and behold! Very quickly, we learnt that I could not buy a house or even open a bank account because I did not have a social security number; nor could I buy a car because I did not have an Iowa driver's license—which required having a social security number that could only be applied for after the commencement of my employment, which in turn could not be initiated until the granting of a HIB visa. Things just went in circles and we could only return to Europe to concentrate on the disengagement from our life in Denmark. Saying good-bye to friends and packing up a

home for relocation proved to be more difficult than expected. That is another story.

Finally, with a high degree of excitement and a good deal of trepidation, we made the big move in January 2016, barely a fortnight before the start of the Spring semester. In the very beginning, we felt like aliens from a different planet having to learn a new way of life or set of rules at every turn of the corner. I had, for instance, to immerse myself in the intricacies of ICON, MAUI and ISIS (MyUI), all in double quick time, whereas my husband James touched base with every possible office, government or private, to get the necessary permits. On March 15, we moved into our home and since then it has been a matter of furnishing the inside. We hope to have a house-warming party towards the end of this semester. I want to note that all this has been achievable only because of the infinite kindness and patience of colleagues in the Department of Anthropology and other offices on campus. In no small measure has the strong sense of community among the local inhabitants of Iowa City touched upon our lives too. Strangers have helped in unimaginable ways to facilitate the setting up of our new home. There are so many stories to tell.

It is a great privilege to have the opportunity to relocate here and to work with colleagues who share a common interest in teaching, research and community service. Beyond any doubt, this is the base for me to continue my research in frontier studies on (1) The Sea Nomads of Southeast Asia; (2) Food, Identity and Health; and (3) Breast Cancer among Asian Women.

This semester, I am teaching a General Education course entitled "Language, Culture, and Communications." This has been a wonderful introduction for me to meet the students of the University of Iowa who come from a spectrum of study programs and

backgrounds. I look forward to developing my course portfolio in the coming semesters, and in particular to contribute towards strengthening the scholarship and teaching of Asia.

This has been a remarkable journey – one that has been invigorating intellectually and rich in human warmth. Many people have helped make it possible. I am indebted to all but wish to

mention specially Jim Enloe, Beverly Poduska, and Shari Knight for forming the kindest and most efficient office of departmental administration I have ever seen. I can only hope that I can reciprocate their kindness so unsparingly given to me by the contributions of my research, thinking, writing and teaching at the University of Iowa.

-Cynthia Chou

UI Anthropology Department 2015-2016 Colloquium Series

KIRA WESTAWAY (Macquarie University, Sydney) "Precision vs. Association: Establishing Chronologies for Paleoanthropological Sites in Laos and Indonesia."

SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

GRANT MCCALL (Tulane University) "Rethinking the Acheulean: What Studying Technological Organization Can Tell Us about Middle Pleistocene Hominin Evolution"

OCTOBER 9, 2015

JOSEPH HANKINS (University of California, San Diego) "The Politics of Pain: Japanese Grassroots Politics across National Boundaries"

NOVEMBER 6, 2015

JOHN MIKSIC (National University of Singapore) "Historical Archaeology in Asian Context: Pre-European Colonialism "

APRIL 4, 2016

Faculty Updates

**Congratulations to
Elana Buch for
earning a
Collegiate
Teaching Award
from CLAS**



Margaret Beck

The biggest event for the North American Archaeology Lab was hosting the Plains Anthropological Conference here in Iowa City in October 2015; even those of us with enough sense not to serve as organizers got caught up in the planning and events. In 2015 my work was published in the *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, with papers in press at *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* and *American Antiquity* (the latter, with UI alum/U of Oklahoma faculty member Sarah Trabert as the lead author, is expected to appear any day now in Spring 2016). My colleagues and I are continuing to work and publish on seventeenth-century red-slipped pottery made in Kansas, as one line of evidence for the arrival of Puebloan refugees in this part of the Great Plains, and on other compositional analyses (including Woodland pottery in Kansas, red-slipped pottery from North Dakota, and Hohokam and Patayan pottery from southwestern Arizona). Donna Roper (a prolific Plains archaeologist and one of my mentors) passed away in 2015, and I have since taken on her unfinished project with Pawnee ceramics too. It makes me simultaneously happy and sad to read through her notes—it feels like one last conversation, even with her awful handwriting.

Elana Buch

This October, Elana's article "Anthropology of Aging and Care" was published in the *Annual Review of Anthropology*. This spring, she was awarded a Collegiate Teaching Award from CLAS. Elana's research examines the new kinds of intimate relationships that adults forge in later life. She is interested both in how people experience these relationships, how the relationships differ amongst people from different social and economic backgrounds and how they are changing broader understandings of family, intimacy, and the life course. Elana is nearing completion of her monograph *Staying Alive in America*. The book focuses on relationships in paid home care, which is the fastest growing occupation in the United States. She is also in the early stages of a new project focused on the experiences of older adults who enter into new romantic relationships in later life. Elana serves on the advisory board for the Aging Studies program, and taught three courses this year cross-listed with that program. By increasing our understanding of the experiences of older Americans and teaching future professionals in aging, Elana's work aims to improve the lives of older Iowans.

Cynthia Chou

Please refer to the feature on page 12

Russell L. Ciochon

Russ continues to expand his academic research in Southeast Asian *Homo erectus*, *Gigantopithecus*, and other Asian fossil primates. Last summer Russ conducted fieldwork with an international research team in Timor and Sumba (Indonesia) to examine early hominin occupation in Southern Wallacea under a Seed Grant from the University of Iowa Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research (CGRER) as well as private funding from the Gordon Getty Foundation. This summer Russ will be continuing his invited research with the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology & Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IVPP, CAS) on the

Faculty Updates

scientific issues related to *Gigantopithecus* faunas and “the mystery ape of Pleistocene China” with Professor Wang Wei, Guangxi Museum of Nationalities, China. Russ along with Kira Westaway, Macquarie University, Australia will be examining cave sites in Guangxi, southern China in order to better date the extinction of this great ape. *Gigantopithecus* just made his film debut in *The Jungle Book*, so Russ has been fielding a multitude of media requests about the largest ape that ever lived. Russ was published this past year in *Evolutionary Anthropology*, *Journal of Asian Earth Sciences*, and *Journal of Human Evolution*. Russ balances his research with teaching and administrative duties. He continues to serve as Director of CLAS’ Museum Studies Certificate Program and Coordinator of Distance Education for the Department.

John F. Doershuk

John Doershuk is the State Archaeologist and adjunct associate professor in the Department of Anthropology. He attended the fall 2015 Midwest Archaeological Conference, Inc. annual meeting and presented on the recent archaeological investigations conducted in Hubbard Park as well as at the new Voxman School of Music construction site. This presentation was part of symposium on “Campus Archaeologies.” John will also be participating in the annual spring meeting (2016) of the Iowa Archeological Society at which he will present on the challenges of consulting regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline project, one of the largest ground-disturbing construction projects to date in Iowa. FYI, the Midwest Archaeological Conference will be meeting in Iowa City on October 6–8, 2016 (Sheraton Hotel) and John will serve as local host—he hopes UI Anthropology students will consider attending and also presenting.

Jim G. Enloe

Jim Enloe is still chair of the department of Anthropology, and has been approved for another 3 year term beginning next year (but starting with a leave in Fall 2016, when Bob Franciscus will serve as interim DEO). While being chair is a time consuming task, he was able to continue his various research programs. He published a chapter entitled “Food sharing” in *The Archaeology of Food: An Encyclopedia*, edited by M.C. Beaudry and K. Metheny. Jim is also continuing his Namibian research program in collaboration with Grant McCall of Tulane University and UI graduate student Teddy Marks, and presented a poster by Marks, McCall, Schroll, and Enloe entitled “Applying Frames of Reference: the CLIMAP Dataset and the Middle to Later Stone Age Transition in the Namib Desert” at the 81st Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA), in Orlando this April. Jim continued his work at the field school site of Woodpecker Cave at the Coralville Reservoir for the fourth year, working with ICRU and other undergraduate students on analyses through the winter. They submitted an annual preliminary report, “Excavations at Woodpecker Cave (12JH202): Report No. 4 – University of Iowa Archaeological Field School 2015” to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with contributions by Jacob Allman, David Caccioli, Andrew Clarke, Ian Dunshee, Melody Hines, Jacob Foubert, Amy Meerleder, John Reinghard, Jeremy Skeens, Luke Stroth, Ryan Theis and Bekah Truhan. He presented “A GIS approach to stratigraphy in visually homogeneous rockshelter deposits: results from Woodpecker Cave” by James McGrath and James



Dr. Russell Ciochon

Faculty Updates

Enloe also at the SAA meeting in Orlando. Jim presented a public lecture on Woodpecker Cave by McGrath, Stroth, and Enloe, "Doing Archaeology in 3-D: A GIS based approach to archaeological analyses" in February at the Office of the State Archaeologist as part of the OSA Brown Bag Series. Excavations at Woodpecker Cave will continue this summer.

Robert G. Franciscus



Dr. Robert G. Franciscus

This past summer Bob received the first shipment of fox skeletal remains from the fox farm at the Institute for Cytology and Genetics (IC&G) at the Siberian Division of the Russian National Academy of Science. Researchers at the IC&G fox farm have conducted experimental studies for over half a century that have produced tame (domesticated) foxes from their wild counterparts to investigate the genetic and morphological underpinnings that might have occurred in the prehistoric process of dog domestication from wolf ancestors. Bob and his former student, Scott Maddux, who has just accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor of anatomical sciences at the University of North Texas, are co-directing a collaborative international effort to study the skeletal effects of domestication in the Russian silver foxes. While the genetic and external soft-tissue traits have been widely reported, the cranial and postcranial skeletal morphology of the fox strains has never before been studied in detail. Bob and Scott, along with their Russian colleagues, are using the morphological changes associated with domestication in the foxes, along with well-documented changes in the domestication of dogs from wolves as a way to potentially model similar skeletal changes observed in the emergence of later modern humans through a process of aggression-dampening and increased social tolerance sometime around 80,000 years ago via a process "self-domestication." The receipt of this first group of fox skeletons is the culmination of three years of work and planning that was first initiated with a trip by Bob and Scott to the IC&G in Siberia in 2013 which was funded, in part, by the University of Iowa's Department of Orthodontics.

In addition to this work, Bob was also a co-author on two peer-reviewed journal articles published in 2015: one in the *Journal of Anatomy*, and one in the *Archives of Oral Biology*, as well as co-presenter on posters presented last year in Sheffield, UK, and three poster presentations at the AAPA meetings in St. Louis, MO. Bob also participated in both local and national community science outreach this past year including an appearance on KCRG TV 9 News (Eastern Iowa ABC affiliate) discussing *Homo naledi*, a new species of the genus *Homo* from South Africa (airdate: 9/14/2015), a feature in *Cosmos Magazine* on why we have a chin (4/27/2015), and an appearance on Iowa Public Radio's River to River program to discuss that same topic (initial airdate: 4/17/2015; and rebroadcast: 7/17/2015).

Laura R. Graham

Laura Graham is giving presentations and writing about her work in Indigenous media and collaborative, engaged Anthropology. "Toward Representational Sovereignty: Rewards and Challenges of Indigenous Media in the A'uŵẽ -Xavante Communities of Eténhiritipa-Pimentel Barbosa," will soon appear in the online, open access journal, *Media and Communication*. Clips from Graham's film, *Owners of the Water: Conflict and Collaboration Over Rivers* (co-directed with David Hernández Palmar and Caimi

Faculty Updates

Waiassé, DER 2009) is a featured resource in the chapter on environmental anthropology in the introductory textbook by Robert L. Welsch and Luis A. Vivanco, *Cultural Anthropology: Asking Questions About Humanity* (Oxford University Press, 2015). In 2015, she presented her work at Johns Hopkins University, the University of Chicago, the University of California at Santa Cruz, the Annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, as well as at the InDigital Latin America Conference at Vanderbilt University. Continuing her work in human rights, Graham sits on the Board of Directors of Cultural Survival and, as a member of the Executive Board of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America, chairs the Public Issues and Actions Committee. Graham chaired the 2015 Sapir Book Prize Committee for the Society for Linguistic Anthropology and, in October 2015, became Associate Editor for the *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*.

Matthew E. Hill

In the last year I continued my on-going research project focused on my two main research interests: the earliest big game hunters of the Americas, and the appearance of Dene populations on the High Plains of North America.

Meena Khandelwal

Meena Khandelwal has three essays on distinct topics that were either published or went into press in 2015. "Renunciation and Domesticity" was published in *Hinduism*, edited by Hatcher (Routledge 2015). Her critique of microfinance "Déjà vu: The Uses of Feminism", co-authored with Carla Freeman, is soon to appear in *Seduced and Betrayed: Exposing the Contemporary Microfinance Phenomenon* (SAR Press). Her essay on development efforts to address the fuelwood-deforestation-gender nexus in India, titled "Cooking with Fire" will appear this summer in *Mapping Feminist Anthropology in the 21st Century*, edited by Ellen Lewin and Leni Silverstein (Rutgers U Press). She is also lead author on a co-authored journal article on cook-stoves that is currently under review. Also related to this project, Khandelwal is making progress on a book that presents a model for collaborative research to address problems that are as deeply cultural as they are ecological. Khandelwal won a Fulbright-Hays Group Project Award to direct a seminar on the development story of improved cook-stoves in India; this will enable her to take a group of 12 UI students and faculty to spend four weeks in Delhi and Udaipur, India. Her ongoing involvement in a multi-disciplinary and collaborative project on environment, development and culture in the arid and semi-arid region of Rajasthan, India, is also the inspiration for the Big Ideas course entitled "People and the Environment: Technology, Culture and Social Justice" which she co-directed with Matthew Hill and three other faculty for the second time in Fall 2015. This course fulfills the General Education requirement for International and Global Issues. It not only implements inquiry-guided and activity-based pedagogies but is organized around a transnational framework that begins the semester with an unlikely comparison between Rajasthan and Iowa; by the end of the semester students discover not only similarities between these two places but also historical connections through colonialism and the Green Revolution.



A drawing of a chulha, a traditional cooking instrument that has been found to contribute to critical issues of air pollution and deforestation in India

Click [here](#) to view the press release for Dr. Khandelwal's Fulbright-Hays Award

Faculty Updates

Drew Kitchen

During the 2015-2016 academic year, Drew participated at the 2016 NSF Beringian Standstill Workshop at the University of Colorado (Boulder). Drew's current research projects involve: 1) analyzing ancient DNA from Native Americans interred thousands of years ago in the Atlantic Northeast; 2) investigating the effect of agricultural lifestyles on the human microbiome; 3) revealing the dynamics of contemporary pathogen populations using bacterial genomes gathered from remains dating to Byzantine-era Troy; and 4) the construction of language phylogenies, specifically the Afroasiatic languages. Drew is a member of the Genetics Cluster Initiative, the Informatics Program, the Iowa Institute of Human Genetics, and an Obermann Center working group investigating the interstices of social and biological understandings of human behavior. He is also co-chair of the Iowa City Darwin Day committee.

Ellen Lewin

Ellen has been on leave this year working on her book, *Filled With the Spirit*, and her co-edited (with Leni M. Silverstein) book, *Mapping Feminist Anthropology in the Twenty-First Century* will be published by Rutgers University Press in June.



Katina with Spanish colleagues at the European Association of Archaeologists meeting in Glasgow, Scotland. They are making the hand gesture for 'dolmen', in sign language, to promote the candidacy of the dolmens de Antequera (Malaga, Spain) as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Katina Lillios

This past year, Katina was involved in several new collaborations. With Antonio Blanco-González (Universidad de Valladolid, Spain), José Antonio López-Sáez (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain), and Brandon Lee Drake (University of New Mexico), she presented a paper at the European Association of Archaeologists meeting in Glasgow, Scotland on demographic and environmental changes that accompanied the 4.2 ky BP event in Iberia. This research was then published in *Quaternary Science Reviews*. She coauthored a stable isotope study of the ovicaprids from Zambujal with former UI graduate student Anna Waterman (Mount Mercy University), Rob Tykot (University of South Florida), and Michael Kunst (German Archaeological Institute, Madrid), which was published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*. She worked with Joel Irish (Liverpool John Moores University, UK), Anna Waterman, and Ana Maria Silva (Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal) on a demographic study of human populations in central Estremadura, which was presented at the SAA meeting and will be prepared for publication. She co-edited, with Michael Chazan (University of Toronto), a book in honor of their graduate advisor, Andrew M.T. Moore, entitled *Fresh Fields and Pastures New: Papers Presented in Honor of Andrew M.T. Moore* (Sidestone, Leiden). She also organized a session at the Theoretical Archaeology Group meeting on Unfair Trades and Unwilling Travellers: Alternative Mobilities of Things, People, and Animals in the Past, and presented a paper on 'Theft and Other Unsociable Extremes' in the session. On other (non-collaborative) fronts, she continues to run and tries not to get injured.

Ted Powers

My second year in the Department of Anthropology has been one marked by productive encounters with both faculty and students while I continue to build

Faculty Updates

towards a long-term relationship with the University of Iowa. The critically minded intellectual environment that I noted upon arrival has continued to inform my research and teaching in ways both large and small. Thanks to all faculty and students who have contributed to my intellectual and pedagogical development.

With respect to teaching, I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with a wide array of students from anthropology and global health studies over the past year. Working with anthropology PhD students in the Anthropology and Contemporary World Problems course has highlighted the excellent work our students do both in the classroom and in the seminar room. The fascinating intellectual pursuits of our graduate students highlight the bright futures that they have in our discipline. I greatly enjoyed teaching the class *Making a Living*, where undergraduate students from our department engaged with cutting edge debates currently being held in the sub-discipline of economic anthropology. I have been impressed by the analytical strengths of our students in this course and others.

In the coming year, I will be continuing my research on the political economy of health and access to care in South Africa. Thanks to departmental funding and an Old Gold summer research grant, I will be returning to South Africa this summer for additional data gathering. I appreciate the support provided by both the department and the university as I work towards finalizing my research on public health dynamics in post-apartheid South Africa. I look forward to more intellectual exchange and productive debate as I continue to learn and grow as a colleague, mentor and student of South African society.



Dr. Ted Powers

Erica Prussing

On the research front, Erica is continuing to work on her NSF-funded, multi-sited ethnographic study of the international rise of public health research by and for indigenous peoples. The first article from this study, co-authored with graduate research assistant Liz Newbury, was recently published in the interdisciplinary journal *Social Science & Medicine* and is entitled “Neoliberalism and indigenous knowledge: Māori health research and the cultural politics of New Zealand’s ‘National Science Challenges.’ ” For 2015-16, graduate assistants Noah Johnson and Sarah Raine have been doing the essential work of finalizing databases for additional study sites, focusing respectively on the mainland US and Hawai’i. Erica has also continued working with Dr. Carolyn Hough at Augustana College on a collaborative study of the experiences of first-time parents in Iowa as they return to work after childbirth, which has provided opportunities for several ICRU-funded undergraduate research assistants. Erica continues to teach a variety of undergraduate courses in medical anthropology, indigenous studies, public health, and gender studies, and to work with colleagues within the department and across campus on new curricular, research, and hiring initiatives. She enjoys working with graduate students in medical anthropology and across several of anthropology’s subfields, as well as in numerous departments across campus. Erica also continued working this year to represent departmental and collegiate interests while completing her first term on the university-wide Faculty Senate, and was re-elected to serve a second 3-year term this spring.



Dr. Erica Prussing

Scott Schnell

Scott Schnell continues his research on the matagi—traditional hunters of bear and

Faculty Updates



Dr. Scott Schnell

other animals in the forested mountains of Northeastern Japan. The matagi are similar to Native American and other indigenous hunters in recognizing nature as a conscious presence—one that provides for and protects them but expects responsible conduct in return. They thus subscribe to a more localized set of ethics in addition to that contained in “world religions” like Buddhism. This provides ideological support for their own activities, which they deem essential to the healthy functioning of the mountain ecosystem. Last July, Scott appeared as the keynote speaker for a special symposium at Tokyo University entitled “Wildlife and the Expansion of Urban Areas: A New Perspective on Wildlife Management Problems.” Next fall, Scott will invite his Japanese colleagues here to the University of Iowa to participate in a conference on the changing nature of human-wildlife interactions in the 21st Century, with a focus on “urban wildlife.” The topic is gaining significance worldwide as human populations continue to encroach upon the habitat of other species (as in North America) or as depopulation of rural areas erodes the village buffer zone that once surrounded urban areas (as in Japan). Should our approach to the problem be control or accommodation? Traditional hunters like the matagi may offer some insight.

Emily Wentzell

In the 2015-16 year I was happy to earn tenure and promotion at Iowa! This year, I focused on presenting my research on the medicalization of sexuality and Mexican men’s experiences of erectile difficulty to diverse audiences, from academics to practicing physicians, throughout the Americas. A highlight was presenting my work to physicians at the first annual Global Men’s Health Summit in Panama. I’ve also started publishing on my second major research project, investigating the health and social consequences of Mexican men’s participation in longitudinal, observational sexual health research; the first article from this project, entitled “Medical Research Participation as Citizenship: Modeling Modern Masculinity and Marriage in a Mexican Sexual Health Study,” came out in *American Anthropologist*. Next year, I’m looking forward to continuing to publish from this research, and to taking on a new position as Director of CLAS’s International Studies Program.



Dr. Emily Wentzell

Focus on Graduate Studies

AnthGrad Introduces New Conference Travel Grant for Students

Contributed by: Shelby Putt

Thanks in large part to the annual AnthGrad Silent Auction, AnthGrad has been able to raise enough funds to introduce a biannual travel grant to support conference travel for graduate students within our department. We are currently able to give out small grants (\$100) to four individuals who participate in the Brown Bag Lecture Series each year, regardless of whether they plan to present at the conference they attend or not. The goals of this new initiative are to increase student participation in departmental activities and to promote the professional development of our student members by helping to defray the often high costs of attending national and international

conferences so that they may gain knowledge about the newest developments in their field and learn to present their research and network with other anthropologists.

Students who have already benefitted from the AnthGrad Conference Travel Grant include James McGrath (Spring '15), Miranda Karban (Spring '15), Scott Olson (Fall '15), and T. Marks (Fall '15).

Items out for the
3rd annual
AnthGrad silent
auction,
November 2015



UI Anthropology's Connections to Our Newest Hominin Relative: *Homo naledi*

Contributed by: Jill Scott

In 2013, two recreational cavers exploring a deep recess of the Rising Star cave system in South Africa stumbled across a massive collection of human bones. Shortly thereafter, Lee Berger (University of the Witwatersrand) put a call out on social media soliciting early career scientists with archaeology and caving experience to conduct the excavation. A team of [six scientists](#) was quickly assembled, including K. Lindsay Eaves Hunter (MA, UI Anthropology, 2004). The researchers excavating the site soon unearthed the largest paleoanthropological finding in Africa to date: more than 1500 bones from at least 15 different individuals—adults to infants—many exceptionally well preserved.

Following the excavation, in January 2014 Berger put out a [similar call on social media](#), this time for early career scientists “with data and skill sets applicable to the study of any part of the anatomy of early hominins.” From those applications, approximately 30 early career scientists, including Myra Laird (BS, UI Anthropology, 2010), and myself (MA, UI Anthropology, 2009 and current PhD Candidate), were selected and flown to Johannesburg in May 2014 to analyze the assemblage.

Since most parts of the skeleton were represented in the collection, we divided into groups based on our anatomical areas of expertise. Both Myra and I worked, and are continuing to work, on the *Homo naledi* craniomandibular material. When we started analyzing the material, the cranial team determined that the craniomandibular morphology looks most similar to species of early Homo, but with a smaller, australopith-like endocranial volume. When we began looking across the skeleton, however, we quickly discovered that different regions of the anatomy looked markedly more ancestral and australopith-like, while others looked more derived and Homo-like. A prime example comes from looking at the species' locomotor anatomy: *Homo naledi* has long legs and [modern human-like feet](#) indicating that they were well adapted for striding bipedalism, but this is coupled with a superiorly-oriented shoulder and [curved fingers](#) that appear effective for climbing.

The initial scientific [research articles](#) were published in the open access journal eLife in September 2015, and 3D scans of the most complete *Homo naledi* specimens are freely available on [Morphosource](#) for anyone to download, analyze, and 3D print. This large assemblage is an exciting find that allows us the rare opportunity to study anatomy and life history across a hominin population. More research is currently being conducted on *Homo naledi*, and additional material is continually being excavated from both the original chamber and the surrounding area, so stay tuned for more hominin research out of South Africa!

Jill Scott (right) analyzing the DH3 *Homo naledi* cranium. Photo by John Hawks.



Graduate Student Updates

Meredith Anderson

Meredith is an archaeology Ph.D. candidate, currently in the process of writing her dissertation. Her doctoral research is focused on trade economy and consumption patterns in rural Classic-period sites at Teotihuacan. This research in part examines the relationship between the phenomenal economic and political success of Teotihuacan during the first few hundreds of years A.D. and the control and maintenance of obsidian exchange and procurement.

Toby Avalos

Toby is currently completing his PhD in Paleoanthropology here at the University of Iowa under the guidance Dr. R.L. Ciochon. Tony earned his B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2000, and more recently his M.A. in Anthropology from the New Mexico State University in 2011. His M.A. thesis addressed the primitive nature of the lower anterior dentition of the Early Pleistocene hominins from the Dmanisi Site, Georgia Republic, whose fossils represent the earliest evidence for hominins known outside of Africa, dating to 1.85 mya. At present, Toby's PhD research is concerned with the transition from early Homo to the more modern Homo erectus form, primarily through dental analysis, and how this relates to the first hominin expansions eastward of the Levant region during the Latest Pliocene or Earliest Pleistocene. His other ongoing academic pursuits include post- Late Miocene hominoid evolution and systematics throughout Southern China and Peninsular Southeast Asia.

Amanda Bernemann

Amanda is an archaeology graduate student studying the diet and subsistence of the Oneota, Late Prehistoric forager-farmers in the Midwest.

Paul Capobianco

Paul is a Ph.D. candidate in cultural anthropology studying the changing nature of Japanese identity in relation to the increased presence of foreigners living and working in Japan. His work looks at how the intercultural encounters between Japanese and foreigners are changing the dynamics between these two parties, as well as how they are affecting the broad sociocultural aspects of contemporary Japan. Paul recently received the University of Iowa's T. Anne Cleary Dissertation Research Fellowship, the university's Japan Foundation Institutional Project Support Program Grant, and several other research grants. He and a colleague organized the panel "Migrant mobilities and identities in East Asia: Ethnographic inquiries into new subjectivities and experiences," which they will present at the Society for East Asian Anthropology meeting in Hong Kong this June. Paul will conclude data collection for his project this summer.

Elizabeth Handschy

Elizabeth is a first year PhD student in medical anthropology, advised by Dr. Erica Prussing. She is also working on the Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies graduate certificate at the University of Iowa. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree

Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AnthGrad) Officers 2015-2016

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Jill Davis

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Shelby Putt

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Christie Vogler

COGS representative:

Amanda Bernemann

GSS representative:

Ana-Monica Racila

Graduate Student Updates

Amanda Bernemann
presented a poster
titled “Subsistence in
Prehistoric Iowa: Cold
-Season Oneota Diet
at the Christenson
Site” at this year’s
Jakobsen Graduate
Conference

in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Anthropology with a minor in Public Health from the Washington University in St. Louis in 2014. Elizabeth plans to research understandings and experiences of health, body size, body image, and gender and sexual identity in sexual minority women. She is interested in how these experiences and understandings are shaped by communities and social relationships. This year Elizabeth received funding from the Graduate & Professional Student Government to conduct fieldwork in San Luis Obispo, California and Portland, Maine. Lastly, she received Honorable Mention honors in the National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

Christian Haunton

Christian is completing his doctoral dissertation in archaeology under the guidance of Dr. Glenn Storey. His doctoral research focuses on the material culture of Utopian communities, specifically the east-central Iowa Amana Colonies. This year Christian presented non-anthropological research at NecronomiCon Providence, the biennial gathering of fans and scholars of the writings of H.P. Lovecraft. He continues to teach religious studies online for the University of Nebraska Omaha, and serve as a consultant for the New York architectural firm 212box. This year also brought new experiences as a teaching assistant, including Christian’s first time teaching with professors of cultural anthropology, biology, and astronomy. Christian has recently taken on a research project that draws on his training in both archaeology and bookbinding. It is an investigation into the persistent legend that, during the mid-to-late 1800s, American papermakers used linen mummy wrappings imported from Egypt as pulp for printed products.

Noah Johnson

Noah is a 5th year graduate student advised by Dr. Scott Schnell, and is a sociocultural anthropologist by inclination. He received his BA from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA in 2002 and worked in the private sector and in secondary education before returning to academic studies in 2011. For his Master’s degree (May 2013) Noah has conducted research in Okinawa, Japan, studying karate as a localized cultural practice that has become an international phenomenon by working with transnational karate practitioners. He also carries out ongoing fieldwork with karate practitioners in the Upper-Midwestern United States. Noah is now in the process of conducting doctoral studies that extend this earlier work through the use of a multi-sited research approach to karate as a cultural practice and cultural product in the circuits of globalization. This project is taking him once again to Okinawa, Japan, as well as several locations in the United States to trace the historic events and interactions that have led karate to become a globalized phenomenon, while also examining the ongoing interconnections, ruptures, and processes that underwrite this cultural practice in various locales. Noah’s larger research interests include the issues of representation, politico-cultural discourse and struggle, the place of ritual and the process of self-identification, culture-loss and cultural survival, assimilation practices “from below”, and practical applications of anthropology. Noah is dedicated to the philosophy that academic research should engage and inform responses to contemporary problems and seeks

Graduate Student Updates

to take direction in developing his research projects from the challenges that face society.

At the University of Iowa, Noah has served as a teaching assistant for Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and Anthropology & Contemporary World Problems, and as the Union Steward for the Department of Anthropology Graduate Students' Association and as the Yellow Area Steward and as a Trustee for the graduate student union at large.

Johnson, Noah C.G. 2012. [The Japanization of Karate?: Placing an Intangible Cultural Practice](#). *Journal of Contemporary Anthropology* 3(1): Article 4.

Johnson, Noah C.G. 2013. [Representing Simultaneity in Polychannel Linguistic Events: A Multitrack Method for Transcription](#). Special Issue, "Anthropological Fieldwork: Innovative Applications of Methodology and Technology," *Student Anthropologist* 3(3): 16-33.

Miranda Karban

Miranda Karban is a PhD candidate in biological anthropology, and defends her dissertation in April. Her primary research interests include osteology, paleoanthropology, and developmental biology, and her dissertation uses geometric morphometric methods to study the timing and morphological patterning of occipital bone growth and development in a longitudinal sample of extant humans. While at the University of Iowa, Miranda has served as a teaching assistant for Human Origins and Prehistory, as well as sole instructor for Rhetoric, Anthropological Forensics, and The Evolution of Human Sex. This fall, Miranda will begin her position as Assistant Professor of Biology at Illinois College.

Addison Kimmel

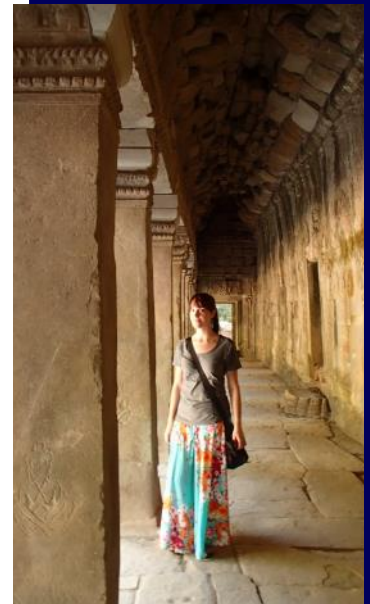
Addison is a PhD student in archaeology working with Dr. Margaret Beck. He earned his B.A. in History from Miami University in 2010, and his M.A. in Anthropology from Northwestern in 2012. He has excavation experience in The Bahamas and Dominica, and has worked in CRM in Illinois. Broadly, he is interested in historical archaeology, the archaeology of the Midwestern United States, household archaeology, and the archaeology of identity. His current work looks at identity and social and economic networks in "Indian Country" during the first decades of the 19th century. Recently, Addison was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

Kerri Lorigan

Kerri Lorigan is completing the first year of her PhD program in archaeology, with a focus on Greco-Roman Egypt under the guidance of Dr. Glenn Storey. She received both her B.A. in history and B.S. in anthropology from Middle Tennessee State University and her M.A. in history with a concentration in Ancient Egypt from the University of Memphis in 2015. She has conducted field work at the Mississippian site of Castalian Springs and in the ancient cemetery of Abydos in Egypt. Her dissertation research is focusing on cultural change in urban settings in Greco-Roman Egypt.



Miranda Karban visiting the temples of Angkor, in Cambodia.



Graduate Student Updates

Natalie Luna-Renek

Natalie Luna-Renek is working towards her Ph.D. in sociocultural anthropology with an emphasis on the Anthropology of Religion, under the guidance of Dr. Sonia Ryang. Natalie received her B.A. in Anthropology from California State University, Fullerton, in 2010 and her M.A. in Sociocultural Anthropology again from California State University, Fullerton, in 2012. Her thesis research focused on the dream and spirit theories of California-based Hawaiians. Her dissertation research is on the dreams of Latina Catholic immigrants living in West Liberty, Iowa.

Farai Marazi

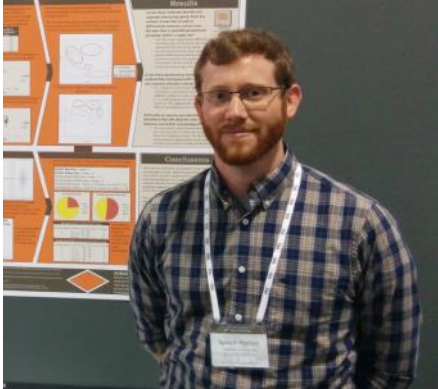
Farai Marazi began the dissertation fieldwork component of his studies in early 2014. His current work involves the use of ethnographic methods to investigate diabetes treatment for homeless people in Brooklyn, New York, who use mobile clinics. The aim of the study is to examine the microeconomic demands of treating diabetes that pose problems to homeless populations, and the degree to which their health care providers understand and respond to this social context. Throughout graduate school, Farai's research interests and coursework in medical anthropology have focused on unmasking the sources of social inequality and poor health for the homeless by exploring conditions of inadequate housing and health structures.

Ted Marks

Ted Marks is a doctoral student in archaeology advised by Dr. James Enloe. Ted's dissertation research is focused on shifts in technological organization and land use strategies across the Middle to Later Stone Age transition in Southern Africa. Along with colleagues from the university of Namibia and Tulane University, Ted is currently co-directing ongoing excavations at three sites in the Namib Desert in Namibia: Erb Tanks Rockshelter, Mirabib Rockshelter, and the Early Stone Age site of Namib IV Pan. While he finishes his dissertation writing, Ted has become an adopted New Orleanian serving as an adjunct professor at Tulane University. Outside of academics, Ted spends most of his time mastering the art of slow-roasting large cuts of pork.

James McGrath

James is a 2nd year paleoanthropology graduate student advised by Dr. Jim Enloe. He graduated with his Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Arizona State University in 2013. James has completed three field seasons at the Middle Stone Age site of Pinnacle Point 5-6 near Mossel Bay, South Africa, multiple field seasons at a variety of locales in the American Southwest, and one field season as the TA of the Woodpecker Cave field school. His research is on the use of symbolic technologies in the formation and maintenance of social networks throughout variable climatic conditions during the Middle and Later Stone Age in southern Africa. James recently published an article in the *South African Archaeological Bulletin* entitled: "The Pinnacle Point Shell Midden Complex: A Mid- to Late Holocene Record of Later Stone Age Coastal Foraging Along the Southern Cape Coast of South Africa", as well as presented in both the Society for American Archaeology and Plains Anthropological



Congratulations to James McGrath (pictured above) and Scott Olson for being awarded Stanley Grants for International Research

Graduate Student Updates

conferences this year. This summer James will be conducting fieldwork in South Africa and Namibia.

Alejandro Muzzio

Alejandro is a PhD candidate specializing in Latin American Cultural Anthropology, advised by Dr. Michael Chibnik. He researches the effects of politics on development programs in emerging markets, with specific attention paid to the conditions of labor. Currently, he's collecting data on the viability and outcomes of tourism ventures and development programs in Garifuna communities on the north coast of Honduras. His master's thesis focused on immigrant labor in Iowa's agricultural sector. In his spare time he researches and implements equities investment strategies in his online brokerage account. Also, he buys and sells silver bullion, military relics, and used road bicycles. He's taught courses on culture and society, world problems, socio-linguistics, human impacts on the environment, and archeology.

Elizabeth Newbury

Liz is in the process of writing her dissertation on biobank donors' and professionals' expectations for community engagement and representation in an Iowa biobank, with generous support from June Helm Graduate Fellowships for summer 2015 and 2016. A paper co-authored with Dr. Erica Prussing (first author), "Neoliberalism and indigenous knowledge: Māori health research and the cultural politics of New Zealand's 'National Science Challenges,'" was published in *Social Science and Medicine* 150 (Feb 2016): 57-66. Liz has enjoyed working this year as Editorial Assistant for *American Anthropologist*, and as a research support staff member with the Center for Comprehensive Access and Delivery Research and Evaluation (CADRE) at the Iowa City VA Health Care System.

Shelby Putt

Shelby is in her seventh and final year of the program and plans to defend her dissertation, *Human Brain Activity during Stone Tool Production: Tracing the Evolution of Cognition and Language*, on July 11, 2016. Shelby received a fellowship from the American Association of University Women that provided support for her during this last year. She took advantage of the time off from teaching to finish analyzing her experimental data and write the dissertation. She presented some of her research at the Paleoanthropology Society, SAA, and AAPA meetings and was also invited to travel to Oxford, England and Fort Wayne, Indiana to talk about her research. Shelby recently accepted the position of Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Stone Age Institute in Bloomington, Indiana, where she will assist with a large, multi-site project that focuses on the critical early period of human cognitive evolution.

Ana-Monica Racila

Ana-Monica is a PhD student in medical anthropology, working under the guidance of Dr. Emily Wentzell. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology and a minor in Biology in 2013 at the University of Iowa. Ana-Monica would like to explore how transgender patients and their healthcare providers rework a medical system designed for cisgender patients. She hopes to understand



**Congratulation to
Shelby Putt**
(pictured here with
last year's recipient
Tony Pomaes) for
being chosen by her
peers as the 2015-
2016 recipient of the
June Helm Award

Graduate Student Updates



Jill Scott presented the keynote lecture about her work on *Homo naledi* to the Utah Friends of Paleontology Annual Meeting in Moab, UT



Congratulations to Meredith Wismer for being awarded a Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship

what such modifications reflect about the construction of gender and sex in U.S. biomedicine while contributing to the broader goal of improving healthcare delivery to this community.

Jill Scott

Jill is a paleoanthropology Ph.D. candidate whose research focuses on craniomandibular variation in genus *Homo*. She is currently working as the Laboratory Coordinator for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Jill is part of the team that analyzed and named *Homo naledi*, the recently announced hominin species from the Dinaledi chamber of the Rising Star cave system in South Africa, co-authoring the paper announcing the species in the open access journal [eLife in September 2015](#). For her involvement in the *Homo naledi* project, Jill has given a number of invited lectures about *Homo naledi* this year, including public lectures at the Smithsonian traveling exhibit “What Makes Us Human” in Pueblo, CO; the Museum of Moab in Moab, UT; Aims Community College in Greeley, CO; and McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, IL. In March 2016 she also presented at the invited symposium, “Paleofest: Women in Paleontology” at the Burpee Museum of Natural History in Rockford, IL, and in April she was the keynote speaker at the Utah Friends of Paleontology Annual Meeting in Moab, UT. This project was covered in a variety of global news outlets, and Jill’s involvement was covered in both local and professional outlets, including KCRG-TV9, CBS2Iowa, and WMT Newsradio, all out of Cedar Rapids, IA; the March online issue of [Anthropology News](#); the December issue of [Iowa Alumni Magazine](#); The Daily Iowan; and KZMU radio in Moab, UT. Jill was also interviewed about her dissertation research and her work on *Homo naledi* by the podcast [Beyond the \(Micro\)scope](#). In October, Jill was invited to Bonn, Germany to present research at a symposium commemorating the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the Oberkassel Upper Paleolithic double burial. In March, she delivered the cranial Comparative Anatomy Seminar at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus about her dissertation research investigating the “uniqueness” of the human chin, and in April, Jill presented a poster about her dissertation research at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting in Atlanta.

Meredith Wismer

Meredith is a doctoral candidate specializing in zooarchaeology. Her dissertation research focuses on understanding the role that wild animal resources played toward the speed and scale of the adoption of agriculture, using the tallgrass prairie region of western Iowa during the Woodland period (~800 BC-AD 1200) as a case study. She presented research related to her dissertation work at the Plains Anthropological Society meeting in Iowa City this fall, and at the Iowa Archaeological Society meeting this spring in Marquette, IA. Meredith was awarded a Ballard and Seashore fellowship to fund the completion of her dissertation next year. In addition to her research in Iowa, Meredith continued to teach online courses in Cultural Anthropology as an adjunct faculty member at Arizona Western College, and as a visiting scholar at the University of Arizona, assisting in the documentation of faunal remains destined for

Graduate Student Updates

repatriation. Her research on the bison remains from Cave Creek Midden site in eastern Arizona with colleagues François Lanoë, Jesse Ballenger, and Jonathan Mabry was presented at the annual conference for the Society of Ethnobiology this spring in Tucson, and featured in an article on [Western Digs](#). Striving to be a well-rounded human being, Meredith took a ceramics course early this spring at the local community center and her projects didn't turn out half bad.



Anthropology graduate students and alumni enjoyed a reunion at this year's meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) in Denver, Colorado.

Focus on Undergraduate Studies

ICRU Fellowship Experience in Museum Studies

Contributed by: Maja Stina Sunleaf

*Congratulations to
the 48
undergraduates
graduating with a
degree in
Anthropology
during the 2015-
2016 academic
year*

*Congratulations to
anthropology
graduate Nathaniel
Otjen for winning
the Callen Prize for
outstanding CLAS
senior*

I am a junior majoring in Anthropology with a concentration in Archaeology. I am also earning a certificate in Museum Studies, and minoring in Spanish and Ancient Civilizations. As a part of the Museum Studies certificate program, I worked as an intern in the University of Iowa Paleontology Repository (UIPR) during the 2014-2015 academic year. Tiffany Adrain approached me about applying for an ICRU Fellowship in order to continue working in the UIPR. Under the ICRU, my focus would switch from boxing up and labeling fossil corals to send to the Smithsonian Museum to curating Dr. Richard Baker's extensive fossil plants and seed collection. This collection is important because it may provide important details about the dietary habits and environments of early humans.

Dr. Baker's large collection includes pollen slides and vials of various seedpods, leaves, and small branches, as well as some insects and mollusks. Although these samples are housed in the UIPR, they were not in the

database, nor was there any record of where the samples were from, how many there were, etc. I began my research by first completing an inventory of the collection and compiling all known data about the samples. I also assembled a file of all publications that reference Dr. Baker's collection. These digital versions of the many publications will eventually be linked to the collection once they are all entered into the University of Iowa's database.

When they were first added to the UIPR's collection, Dr. Baker's samples were stored in cardboard boxes and many of the vials were stopped with cork tops. Tissue paper was used in some boxes to provide support to the vials and prevent them from falling out of their designated boxes and into the drawers where they could become broken or misplaced. In one box, the vials were actually taped together to avoid separation, but there was nothing preventing them from falling over. These were some of the biggest issues plaguing the collection when I began my research. Currently, the collection is being transferred to acid-free boxes that are fitted with an acid-free, polyethylene foam base. The foam has been specifically cut to house the vials so that each individual vial fits snugly, yet with enough room around it for ease of removal. Catalogue numbers are being placed in the free spaces of foam, and each number will correspond with the vial that occupies that spot. This will allow for better organization of the vials and for ease in finding particular samples. The potential disintegration of the cork tops and a suitable replacement for them is still being researched. Although we don't want to risk losing any of the samples by transferring them into new vials, it is proving difficult to



find an archival safe alternative cap that fits the existing vials.

The ultimate goal of this research project is to preserve and catalogue Dr. Baker's paleobotany collection so that it may be used by and easily accessible to researchers in the future. What is so interesting about my work is that geologists and anthropologists, and scientists from other disciplines may use these samples to support their own research and fieldwork.

That these fossilized paleobotany remains can help researchers learn more about the dietary habits and environments of early humans is astounding and of great interest to me, as it has been a topic of study in my anthropology classes. I have presented my research at the 1st Annual ICRU Undergraduate Research Conference and at the 2016 Spring Undergraduate Research Festival (SURF).

My Experience in Anthropology

Contributed by: Rylee Kerper

My name is Rylee Kerper and I am currently a junior at the University of Iowa. I am majoring in anthropology on the health professions track. This past summer I was given the opportunity to travel to Romania on a research internship that focused on public health. Here I was able to observe and help out on various projects at different stages of completion. Aside from working on existing projects, I wanted to answer my own research question. After working closely with my mentor, Oana M. Bloga of the Cluj School of Public Health, I was able to ask, "what is the relationship between mental health and secondhand smoke?" The conclusions I came to, using both my own research and others', is that the more secondhand smoke people are exposed to in their adolescence, the more likely they are to report the symptoms of, and be diagnosed with, various mental illnesses, including depression, anxiety, and ADHD.

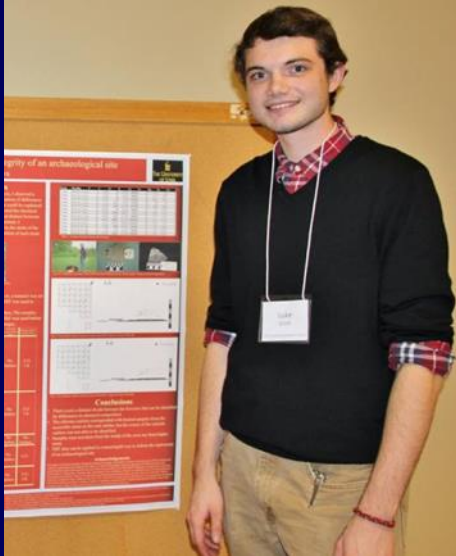
In addition to learning what research essentially is, and how to conduct it, I was able to look at issues in public health from an anthropological standpoint. In my time looking at tobacco usage in Romania through this research, I asked myself questions that went beyond just how secondhand smoke influences mental health. I found myself curious about how mental health is viewed in Romanian culture and how that may be influencing the data I was looking at. Was one's response being influenced by a cultural view of how emotions should be shared? Or, cultural stigma focused on discussing mental health? Also, I asked myself why tobacco usage was so popular not only in Romania, but in Eastern Europe as a whole. Was there a social factor influencing its usage? A historical factor? Has tobacco usage been influenced by Romania's ever-changing political state in the past 200 years?

Doing research in public health has helped me to understand a lot of new things, like how the healthcare system functions, various health risks, how prevention programs work, and more. However, studying anthropology has allowed me to look at all of these things more critically. By having an anthropological background when entering these fields, I feel more confident in my ability to understand the 'why' in addition to the 'how'. Yes, I was able to understand how mental health could be influenced by secondhand smoke, but I still want to understand why. Why is mental health viewed the way it is in Romania? Why is tobacco usage so popular in the country? You can tell people the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke, but you will only truly be able to influence a change once you understand why someone smokes. By studying anthropology, I hope to be able to ask the 'why' in my future career. Anthropology has given me the ability to understand the world in new ways, and integrate this new knowledge into not only my educational endeavors, but my everyday life.



A Change of Hearth: An Undergraduate Research Experience

Contributed by: Luke Stroth



“Any success I may have had, I credit to the close relationships I’ve built with the students and faculty in the Anthropology Department.”

I first became involved in anthropology the second semester of my freshman year. I had emailed Dr. James G. Enloe asking for information regarding the Woodpecker Cave field school that was advertised in his Introduction to Prehistory course. He provided the opportunity to begin working with some of

the assemblages from Woodpecker Cave. I admit my notions of archaeology at the time were quite romantic, but I found that making spreadsheets, counting and weighing artifacts, and starting my own research projects to be rewarding, engaging, and preferable even to swashbuckling.

A long-term research project, building from that first series of spreadsheets, has been the analysis of the fire-cracked rock (FCR) assemblage from Woodpecker Cave, a Middle to Late Woodland rock shelter in the Coralville Reservoir and the site of the University of Iowa Archaeological Field School since 2012. Under the supervision of Dr. Enloe I’ve performed a geochemical analysis

using a portable X-Ray Fluorescence device (pXRF) of the material in service of facilitating a refit analysis. Because the FCR was mostly homogenous limestone, minor geochemical variations were selected to identify artifacts that were likely to fit together. While this technique was relatively unproductive (a .37% refit rate from the 2014-2015 study), I was able to salvage the geochemical information for a different kind of study.

I identified a separation of outlier groups by stratum. The chlorine outliers appeared mostly in the upper strata, and the calcium outliers appeared mostly in the lower strata. To understand the kinds of chemical changes that occur, burning experiments were conducted with raw material taken from the rock shelter, which were analyzed prior to and following each stage in the burning process with the pXRF. Calcium outliers were rocks that had been subjected to the least amount of heat, and chlorine the most. Their separation by strata was tied to two different anthropological causes. The first was a routine suite of hearth maintenance behaviors practiced in antiquity, and the second the redeposition of cultural material on top of intact occupational horizons

by the previous excavations at Woodpecker Cave, conducted by Warren J. Caldwell in 1956. The more intensely heated limestone (the chlorine outliers) were swept away from the hearth and replaced with new hearthstones. The 1956 excavation, which overlapped somewhat with the grid created for the Iowa excavation, redeposited their backdirt on top of the occupational surface containing calcium outliers. The backdirt formed the upper strata containing the chlorine outliers.

While at times frustrating, this research experience was always engaging and ultimately very rewarding. From 2013-2014 my research was funded by the ICRU fellowship, and I was able to present at FURF and SURF, the 2014 Iowa Academy of Science Meeting, 2015 Plains Anthropology Conference, and 2016 Society for American Archaeologists Conference. I am very grateful to the support and guidance of my faculty mentor, Dr. Enloe.

In addition to my work with the FCR, I am working on my honors thesis where I use the lithic assemblage at Woodpecker Cave to examine how traditional models for the organization of lithic technology are complicated by the presence of high quality material. Analysis of the mobility patterning of the occupants will possibly help situate the rockshelter within its transitioning Woodland context. I've been working with Dr. Katina T. Lillios on a public outreach project, assisting in writing prose for and formatting a website on her work in the Iberian Peninsula. I am currently working with Mark L. Anderson and Daniel G. Horgen from the Office of the State Archaeologist, assisting them in performing a geochemical analysis of raw material samples from Northeast Iowa and Southwest Wisconsin, with the intention of using this information to identify



Collecting data for the burning experiment

archaeological materials.

A fourth-year student, this coming Spring I will graduate Phi Beta Kappa with honors in the major. In addition to a B.A. in Anthropology I hold a Certificate in American Indian and Native Studies, and a minor in Geoscience and Spanish. Any success I may have had I credit to the close relationships I've built with the students and faculty in the Anthropology Department, who have at all times been supportive of my goals, providing the opportunities to achieve them, the advice to achieve them well, and exhibiting great patience in answering many foolish questions I've had along the way.

I intend to pursue anthropology professionally. This coming fall I will begin the PhD program at the University of California, San Diego, Department of Anthropology. I will be studying Western Mexican Metallurgy and its influence on the Maya lowland regions during the Terminal Classic Period. My advisor is Dr. Geoffrey Braswell, a Maya lithicist.



2 of the 8 lithic refits found during the analysis

Building Connections:

UI Anthropology and the Office of the State Archaeologist



Lakeside Lab Field school, pictured from left to right, backrow: Maureen Lonergan, Rebekah Gansemer, Sara Anderson, John Doershuk, Megan Weilbrenne; front row: Ashlynn Brown and Eliza Ross

John Doershuk, State Archaeologist and adjunct associate professor in the Department of Anthropology, organized and served as lead instructor for a summer archaeological field school in 2015. The course was based at Iowa Lakeside Lab, a facility which is part of the Iowa Regent's University system (as is UI). All participants earned four semester hours of credit and paid tuition at the in-state rate. The site chosen for investigation, 13DK96, yielded a rich abundance of ceramic

sherds, lithic debitage and finished tools (including one projectile point made from an unusual-for-Iowa western South Dakota chalcedony), and copious animal bones—especially fish and turtle. Several UI students have assisted with lab processing and analyses of the recovered material during this past academic year as part of honors research and independent study, including Maureen Lonergan and Rebekah Gansemer. The same course will be taught summer 2016. Looking farther ahead, John will be teaching during spring 2017 a course offered just every other year, “CRM Archaeology: Practice and Practicalities.” This course is a must for any aspiring North American archaeologist who anticipates participating in the cultural resources management sector after graduation. He reminds all students with archaeological interests to visit the Office of the State Archaeologist and avail themselves of the collections, archives, and personnel to enhance their UI learning experience.

University of
Northern Iowa
student Eliza Ross
works on Feature
1 at 13DK96



Mind and Matter: Applying Cognitive Anthropology to Archaeological Ceramics

Contributed by: Madeleine Hoofnagle

I've been interested in archaeological and anthropological topics since I was very young. However, I didn't decide to study cognitive archaeology until much later in my college career. I encountered the term in an article I was reading for one of my anthropology classes and it seemed like the perfect combination of my two majors: psychology and anthropology. I was fascinated by the idea of formulating theories about the cognitive aspects of a society using crafts, architectural features, burial sites, and other forms of physical remains that they left behind.

During the summer before my junior year, I received an email that Dr. John Doershuk was looking for a student to apply to an Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates (ICRU) fellowship with him to fund a field school experience with the goal of continuing the excavation and research of a Middle to Late Woodland habitation site located in Northwest Iowa, site 13DK96. Specifically, there was a focus on the ceramic assemblage of the site – very little had been published about the ceramics since initial excavations of a few surrounding sites and this site was yielding an incredible number of sherds. I hadn't worked with artifacts at all up until that point and I was eager to get some hands-on experience.

After having attended the 2015 summer field school and spent time at the Office of the State Archaeologist handling and



organizing the materials we'd recovered, I'm very excited about both ceramic analysis as a field of study and the implications that site 13DK96 has for our understanding of Midwestern prehistoric peoples. I've found that ceramic materials provide a window into the minds of the people who created them, and in addition to continuing research with the site 13DK96 materials, I hope to take the skills I acquire and begin focusing on patterns of ceramic production on a region-wide or even nationwide scale.

My Anthropology Undergraduate Experience

Contributed by: Leslie Nemo



Congratulations to undergraduates

Seraphina Carey, Ian Dunshee, Tylor Hobson, Amy Meehleder, Leslie

Nemo, and Nathaniel Otjen for being invited to join Phi Beta Kappa

Congratulations to anthropology graduate Anni Pan who will be pursuing graduate work in Museum Studies and Anthropology this fall at Syracuse University, with a scholarship

When I was a sophomore here at the university with a health and human physiology major, it didn't occur to me how well the topic meshed with anthropological studies until I took Dr. Lillios' Intro to Prehistory course. I volunteered in her lab while her Bolores, Portugal Bronze Age burial work was still under way. That summer, I enrolled in an osteology workshop in Ororheiu Secuiesc, Romania and came home convinced I should find my own osteology research to do at Iowa.

While in Dr. Franciscus' osteology course the following fall, he introduced me to a study published in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* that proposed the age at death of an individual from the archaeological record could be determined from bone remodeling patterns in areas of the jaw where molars had been lost. Basically, if an individual loses a molar tooth during their lifetime, the bone where that tooth was – alveolar bone – resorbs. It will continue to do so till death, but only in that very spot. Surrounding teeth, if kept till death, will maintain the same alveolar height. Dr. Simon Mays, the author of this study, proposed that if the resorption rate never changes, the disparity in height between alveolar bone of teeth retained and that of teeth lost could indicate age at death. Ideally, a population could be used to set up a function so new individual's measurements could be entered to calculate how old they were when they died. An accurate technique for determining age at death in adult individuals from the skeletal record is needed in physical anthropology, so Mays' suggestions were appealing.

With his own skeletal population from Zwolle, The Netherlands, Mays determined that yes, this was a viable and accurate technique. To see if his

conclusions stood in a different and larger population, Dr. Franciscus and I decided to employ his methodology on the Hamann-Todd Osteological Collection housed at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in Cleveland, Ohio. After analyzing and practicing Mays' techniques on Dr. Franciscus' skeletal collection housed at the university, I spent two weeks in Cleveland, taking mandibular measurements on 200 individuals. Since then, Dr. Franciscus and I have worked on producing the statistical models necessary to glean as much information as possible from the data as well as drafts of the publication we hope to submit to the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.

Even though I walked into Dr. Franciscus' office two years ago with almost none of the knowledge I'd need to complete my research, he has been nothing but patient and helpful the entire time. Though I can see the files and files of other projects I know to be more important than mine on his desk, I never once have been made to feel like my research wasn't worth his time. He not only answers my questions, but also encourages me to ask more and to develop my own opinions and arguments. Even beyond research, he has been an incredible mentor and soundboard for my graduate school application process. This fall, I will be attending New York University for my master's in Science, Health and Environmental Reporting. Though I'm not making anthropology my career, my major and research have changed how I read, write, and analyze any and all information I get my hands on. No matter my career in the future, my work will have the mark of an analytical, anthropological way of thinking, and I couldn't be more grateful to the anthropology department for that.

In Memory

Remembering Shirley Ahlgren

Contributed by: Michael Chibnik

The anthropology department has had only two administrative assistants since its founding in 1970. Shirley Ahlgren was our administrative assistant from 1970 until 1989; Beverly Poduska has had the position since then. Shirley passed away at the age of 93 on March 10 of this year. I am one of the few people still around the department who remembers Shirley, who kept the place running efficiently for many years.

Shirley (nee Miller), an Iowa City native, was from a family of contractors who built many houses around town (including one I once lived in). After Shirley married Carl Ahlgren, she moved to East Aurora, New York outside of Buffalo. Shirley was widowed with eight children while in her 40s. She moved back to Iowa City and received a B.A. in anthropology and soon afterwards became the department's administrative assistant.

The job of administrative assistant in the 1970s and 80s was very different from what it is today. Shirley spent much of her time typing manuscripts for faculty members and letters for the department chair. She worked closely with Professor June Helm, who did not like to write or type manuscripts. June instead dictated the papers she was working on, which Shirley

would then transcribe. When I came to the department in 1978, it seemed to me that Shirley was spending a third of her time transcribing June's dictations.

The administrative staff during the 1970s and 1980s consisted of Shirley and a series of capable young women hired half-time. The department ran well even in the absence of the complex bureaucratic requirements that take up so much of Beverly's time. Shirley, like Beverly, knew how things worked at the university and was a great help to faculty and students. When Shirley was 65, she decided to retire and move to Cape Cod, Massachusetts, where one of her daughters lived. I was in my first year of being department chair at the time and was faced with the daunting task of finding a replacement. We can all be grateful to Shirley, who recommended Beverly for the position.

I only saw Shirley a few times after she left the department and moved to Massachusetts. I was glad to see in her [obituary](#) that she had stayed in Cape Cod and had a long and happy retirement.





**Thank You to Our
Incredible
Administrative
Support Staff!**

Beverly Poduska and Shari Knight expertly juggle the multiple demands of a busy department and do so with grace, flexibility, and good humor. Their experience, hard work and dedication is deeply appreciated by the faculty and students alike!

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Note from the Editor

This newsletter would not have been possible without the important contributions of several people within the Department! My thanks to everyone who took the time to send information and photos to include, and especially to those who did so in a timely fashion.

A special thanks to those who graciously contributed extended features to this years newsletter: Katina Lillios, Scott Schnell, Heidi Lung, Cynthia Chou, Shelby Putt, Jill Scott, John Doershuk, Maja Stina Sunleaf, Luke Stroth, Leslie Nemo, Rylee Kerper, Madeleine Hoofnagle, and Michael Chibnik.

Thank you to Sarah Ahlgren for providing a photo of Shirley to include, and to Cynthia Charlton for putting us in

contact. Shelby Putt's diligent archiving of departmental happenings on the UI Anthropology Facebook page continued to be useful this year. As always, Beverly Poduska and Shari Knight provided information and guidance.

Many thanks to faculty advisors Katina Lillios and Elana Buch whose persistence in soliciting features from UI anthropology undergraduates cannot be overstated. I am grateful for all the work they have done to perfect the newsletter.

I take sole credit for any and all mistakes and omissions contained herein.

Cheers!
-Meredith Wismer
AnthrObserver Editor
(2015-2016)

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